
Kessler, Ellen

From: Lilley, Bliss
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 1:35 PM
To: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: CapX2020
Attachments: CapX Environmental Criteria.pdf

From: Schultz, Dawn R [mailto:dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 1:32 PM
To: decocker_5@hotmail.com
Cc: stephanie.strength@usda.gov; Lilley, Bliss
Subject: CapX2020

Dear Denice,

Thank you for your e-mail. When we are considering routing, we absolutely consider impact to private landowners. State routing criteria generally promotes the view of limiting impacts to sensitivities (for examples of sensitivities, please see the attached) and promoting the concept of corridor sharing. Once the potential route corridors are determined, the sensitivities along those various options are identified and route segments are compared against each other to determine which segments provide linear connectivity while impacting the fewest sensitivities.

Given the uncertainty of which route would be chosen, and where specifically the line would be placed along any given route, it's hard for me to discuss impact to your trees. We would certainly meet with you prior to placing any poles to discuss with you your specific concerns.

As for TV reception, there is very little risk that the line would have any interference with your TV signals. The only way the line could interfere is if a pole were placed very close to the receiver and physically blocked the signal. We're committed to careful design in general and avoiding any interference on any communication or television reception in particular.

Your comments are being forwarded to Stephanie Strength for inclusion in the USDA Rural Utility Service's federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Comments for the EIS are due July 25. Should you think of anything else, you may also e-mail Stephanie directly. Thank you for your input.

Dawn Schultz
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Concerns: The proposed power lines have caused us a great deal of stress and sleepless nights. The newspaper said that all affected homeowners were notified. That is not the case for us. Although we had read about the proposed lines, none of the routes were actually affecting us personally. It was only the last week in May that our neighbor informed us that a route would be changed. We went to the meeting in Plainview on June 16th and

- there discovered the route went right across our front yard. We still have not been officially notified except for general letters informing us of informational meetings. Earlier in May we discovered a pink ribbon tied to a tree up in our woods. We were upset that someone had trespassed on our land with out permission. We now assume it had to do with the power lines.
- I-260-001** | *Do you take into consideration that the proposed power lines are in someone's front yard? Our house is built into the hillside with windows only on the south and west sides. Our three bedrooms and living room all face south overlooking our front yard.
- I-260-003** | *We heat our house and greenhouse exclusively with wood heat. We are dependent on the trees in our woods for our future needs for heat. It would be a hardship if trees are cleared for power lines.
- I-260-002** | *A few years back we bought a dish so that we could finally get TV reception. Because we are basically surrounded by hills, the only direction we can point the dish is south. Will these power lines interrupt our ability to pull in TV stations? 7/23/2009 12:06:00 PM

I-260-001

Your letter/comment card has been comment noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line. As Ms. Schultz stated in her letter the impact to landowners and land use is taken into consideration in the routing process.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-260-002

Your comment has been noted. Interference with electrical equipment caused by the transmission lines will be addressed with individual landowners if the problem arises.

I-260-003

Your letter/comment card has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process along with potential impacts to vegetation resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Additional The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.



Environmental Siting Criteria

Opportunities

For transmission lines, advantageous siting "opportunities" are characterized by corridors with the potential for sharing or running alongside existing facilities, infrastructure, and landscape features.

Advantageous substation "opportunities" are sites that allow a substation to be located on or adjacent to a property with existing electric facilities or compatible structures.

Sensitivities

"Sensitivities" are those environmental siting criteria, including point locations, areas, or features, which are taken into account with regard to routing, construction, or additional licensing/permitting procedures.

Opportunities
Existing ROWs (electric transmission lines, railroads, pipelines, highways/roads)
Identified utility corridors
Section lines/property lines
Sensitivities
Population centers
Existing/planned residential areas
Memorial parks
National register historic sites
Designated or registered national historic districts
Native American tribal land
National landmarks
National parks/monuments
National recreation areas
State parks and recreation areas
Scenic areas/scenic travel routes
Wild and scenic rivers
Special management areas (areas of environmental concern [ACECs], natural conservation area [NCAs])
National and state wilderness areas
State natural areas/scientific areas
Nature conservancy preserves
National wildlife refuges
State wildlife refuges, wildlife areas, game management areas
Threatened and endangered species critical habitat areas
Unique habitats (habitat conservation plans)
Waterfowl nesting or rearing areas
Floodways/floodplains
Open water expanses greater than 1,000 feet
Wetlands considered areas of special natural resource interest
Airport obstruction-free zones/flight approach paths
VORTAC tower sites
Military reservations/installations
Other federal and state land (not otherwise protected)
Mines
Geologically unstable or highly erosive areas
Agriculture types (row crops, irrigated crops, vineyards, orchards)
Mechanical wheeled or line irrigation systems
Schools/daycare centers

*Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Dairyland Power Cooperative • Great River Energy
Minnesota Power • Minnesota Power Cooperative • Missouri River Energy Services • Otter Tail Power Company • Rochester Public Utilities
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Wisconsin Public Power Inc. • Xcel Energy*